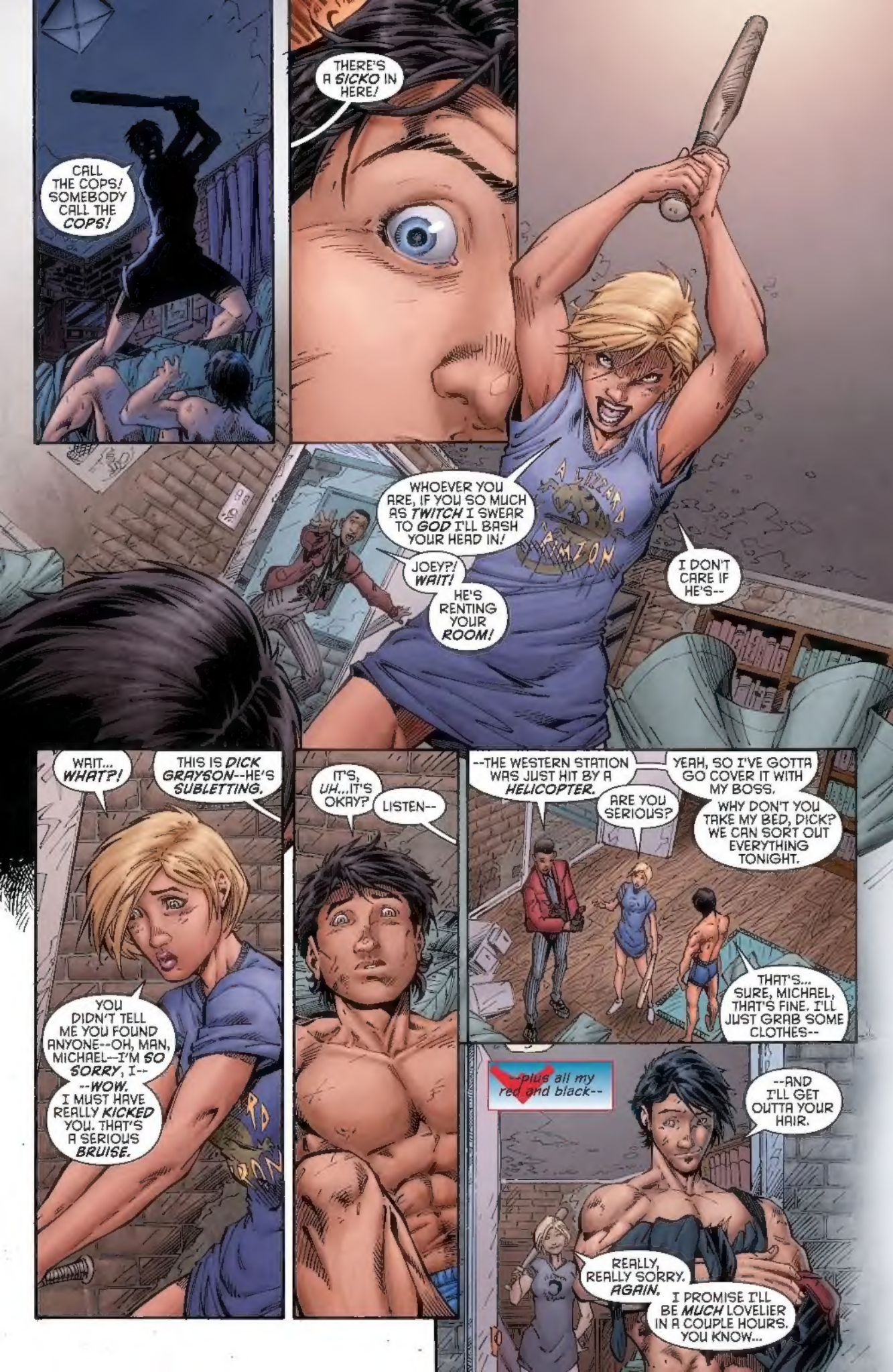
DC COMICS™
20
NIGHTWING™
THE NEW 52!
BLINDED BY THE PRANKSTER!
KYLE HIGGINS
BRETT BOOTH
NORM RAPMUND
JUL 2013
RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM

CHICAGO.
Sometimes a plan goes so well you swear you could've pulled it off with your eyes shut.
Other times, you're involved in a helicopter police chase--
--that ends with an elevated train station exploding--

--and leaves you picking shrapnel out of your last suit.
So much for avoiding patch jobs in Chicago.
FEEL THE STARS
-EHN-
Worry about it later, Grayson.
Right now, focus on what's in front of you--the fact that everything hurts...
...and there's a comfortable bed that wants to make it better.
A couple hours' sleep, and then you can figure out your next move. Just close your eyes and--
AAIIIEEEE--!
WHA--?


CALL THE COPS! SOMEBODY CALL THE COPS!
THERE'S A SICKO IN HERE!
WHOEVER YOU ARE, IF YOU SO MUCH AS TWITCH I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL BASH YOUR HEAD IN!
JOEY?! WAIT!
HE'S RENTING YOUR ROOM!
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S--
WAIT... WHAT?!
THIS IS DICK GRAYSON--HE'S SUBLETTING.
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU FOUND ANYONE--OH, MAN, MICHAEL--I'M SO SORRY, I-- --WOW. I MUST HAVE REALLY KICKED YOU. THAT'S A SERIOUS BRUISE.
IT'S, UH...IT'S OKAY?
LISTEN--
--THE WESTERN STATION WAS JUST HIT BY A HELICOPTER.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YEAH, SO I'VE GOTTA GO COVER IT WITH MY BOSS.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE MY BED, DICK? WE CAN SORT OUT EVERYTHING TONIGHT.
THAT'S... SURE, MICHAEL, THAT'S FINE. I'LL JUST GRAB SOME CLOTHES--
--plus all my red and black--
--AND I'LL GET OUTTA YOUR HAIR.
REALLY, REALLY SORRY. AGAIN.
I PROMISE I'LL BE MUCH LOVELIER IN A COUPLE HOURS. YOU KNOW...

"...ONCE THE SUN'S ALL THE WAY UP."
CHICAGO STEELWORKS.
1705
POLICE
HELP... ME...
THERE!
SOME... BODY...
OH, GOD...
...HELP...

DC COMICS™ PRESENTS:

NIGHTWING IN

FLYING BLIND

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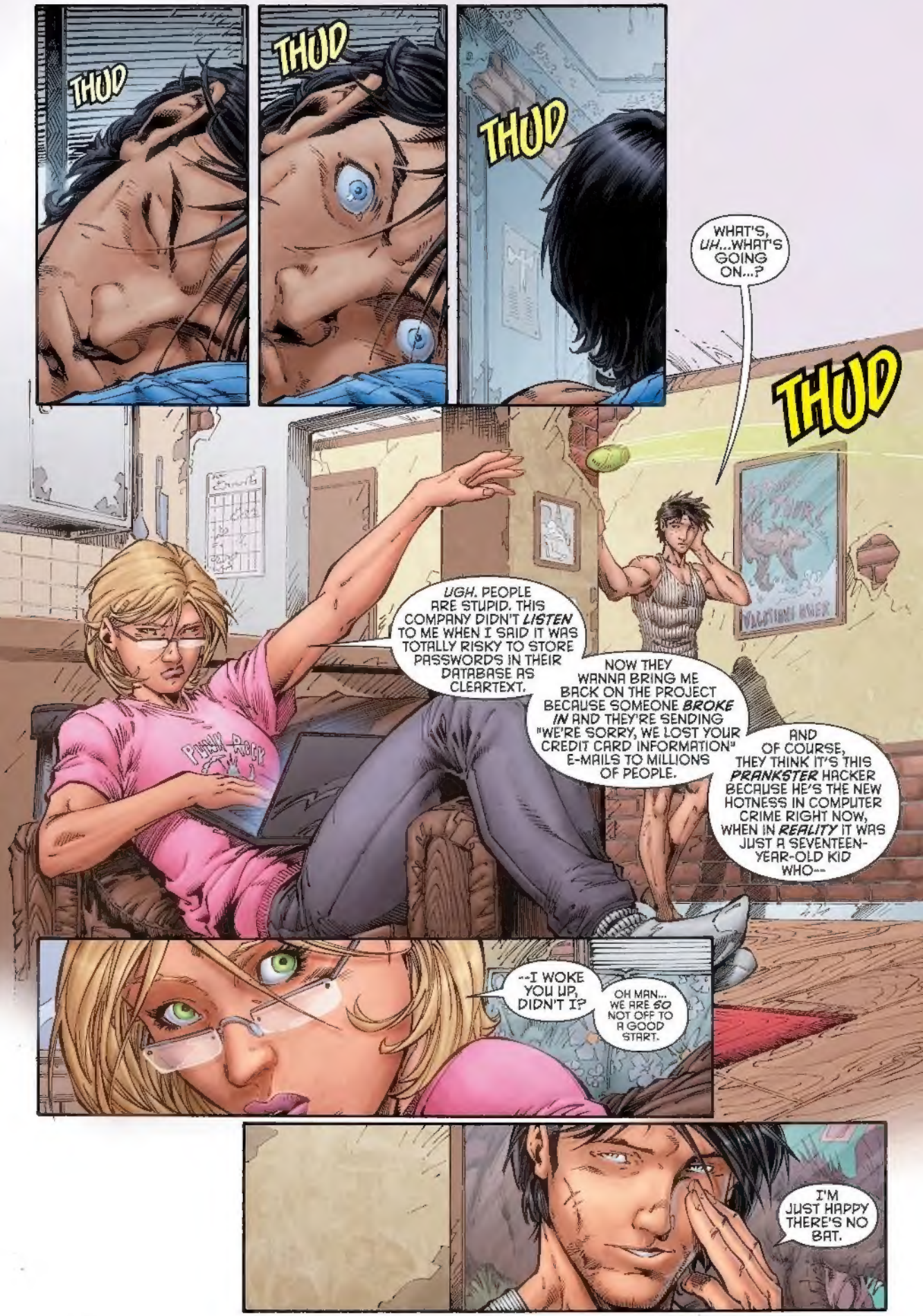

THUD
THUD
THUD
WHAT'S, UH...WHAT'S GOING ON...?
THUD
UGH. PEOPLE ARE STUPID. THIS COMPANY DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME WHEN I SAID IT WAS TOTALLY RISKY TO STORE PASSWORDS IN THEIR DATABASE AS CLEARTEXT.
NOW THEY WANNA BRING ME BACK ON THE PROJECT BECAUSE SOMEONE BROKE IN AND THEY'RE SENDING "WE'RE SORRY, WE LOST YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION" E-MAILS TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.
AND OF COURSE, THEY THINK IT'S THIS PRANKSTER HACKER BECAUSE HE'S THE NEW HOTNESS IN COMPUTER CRIME RIGHT NOW, WHEN IN REALITY IT WAS JUST A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD KID WHO--
--I WOKE YOU UP, DIDN'T I?
OH MAN... WE ARE SO NOT OFF TO A GOOD START.
I'M JUST HAPPY THERE'S NO BAT.

WHOEVER SAID CHICAGO TRANSIT IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD IS AN *IDIOT*.
WE JUST GET THE TRAIN BACK--WE *JUST* GET IT BACK, AND IT'S ALREADY TRASHED.
YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK THEM TO REBUILD IT *LAST* TIME? *TWO YEARS*.
MAYBE IT'LL, *UH*...GO FASTER *THIS* TIME?
I HATE MASKS. I *HATE* 'EM. I NEVER CARED ABOUT 'EM BEFORE, BUT I NOW OFFICIALLY HATE THEM.
"BEFORE"?
YEAH. THE *LAST* TIME WE HAD 'EM IN CHICAGO. BEFORE SOMEBODY *KILLED* ANYONE WEARING ONE.
ANYWAY, GOTTA SHOWER BEFORE THIS PRESS CONFERENCE.
YOU KNOW, WHERE I'LL DO *IMPORTANT* THINGS LIKE CARRY A TRIPOD...
HE'S BEEN AT THE PAPER FOUR YEARS AND THEY BARELY LET HIM SHOOT FOR THEIR WEBSITE.
THAT SUCKS.
YEAH. I KEEP TELLING HIM HE SHOULD GET IN AT A COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION COMPANY... BUT HE WANTS TO BE A *JOURNALIST*.
SO I WAS THINKING--SINCE I'M NOT EVEN 'SPOSED TO BE HERE THIS MONTH, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE MY ROOM AND I'LL HOLD DOWN THE COUCH?
OH, I COULDN'T DO THAT...
EH, IT'S NOT THAT LONG. BESIDES, YOU ALREADY *PAID*... WHICH MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO.
YOU'RE SURE THAT'S OKAY?
TOTALLY. AND I LIKE TO GET UP EARLY. SO IT WORKS OUT.
I APPRECIATE IT, JOEY.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO TOWN ANYWAY?
A SECRET LOVE OF HUMIDITY AND FREEZING WINTERS?
DEE!
JOHNNY SPADE
Ready to play?
ACTUALLY...

"...IT'S KIND OF A FAMILY THING."
CITY HALL.
THE WOLF, WHICH WAS ON LOAN TO THE LINCOLN PARK ZOO, WAS STOLEN LAST NIGHT. AROUND THE SAME TIME WE WERE ENGAGED WITH THIS... NIGHTWING.
THE WOLF'S BACK WITH THE ZOO NOW. THEY'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT COMBINATION OF DRUGS THE PRANKSTER FED TO IT.
ALDERMAN LAINE IS UNDER HEAVY SEDATION AT COOK COUNTY. HIS ARM IS... COMPLETELY GONE.
AND WE'RE CURRENTLY REVIEWING EVIDENCE THAT CONNECTS THE ALDERMAN TO A CHILD TRAFFICKING RING.
THE WAY IT LOOKS, LOSING AN ARM WASN'T NEARLY ENOUGH FOR THE ALDERMAN.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE PRANKSTER? LAST WEEK HE WAS PHISHING WEBSITES FOR CREDIT CARD NUMBERS.
NOW HE'S WEARING A MASK AND STEALING WOLVES? TORTURING POLITICIANS? WHY?
WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT OURSELVES, MAYOR WALLACE. AS SOON AS WE DO...YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.
THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER RACINE. THAT'LL BE ALL THEN.
ACTUALLY, COMMISSIONER-- ONE OTHER THING. THE NAME MY AIDE MARCUS MENTIONED LAST NIGHT-- ZUCCO, I THINK IT WAS?
LOOKS TO BE A BAD LEAD, SIR. TONY ZUCCO'S DEAD.
MAYOR DALE
AH. WELL, THANK YOU ANYWAY, COMMISSIONER.

HAVE YOU SLEPT? YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.
I GOT A FEW HOURS, BUT THIS WHOLE THING...
IT'LL BE FINE.
YOU HEARD RACINE--EVEN HE COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING. YOU'RE STILL DEAD, TONY.
I TOLD YOU, STOP CALLING ME THAT.
TONY... THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS HARD, I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT THE LAST THING WE SHOULD DO IS LEAP TO ANY--
--WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?
THE LAST TIME NIGHTWING CAME AFTER ME...I GAVE UP EVERYTHING. MY NAME, MY LIFE...
...MY DAUGHTER...
...I CAN'T DO IT AGAIN, WALLACE. I WON'T.
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED, THEN TAKE NANCY AND BRIAN AND GET AWAY FOR A FEW WEEKS. CLEAR YOUR HEAD.
BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK, I PROMISE...

"...THIS WHOLE THING WILL HAVE BLOWN OVER."
After Red Robin traced the Zucco e-mail to Chicago, I reached out to Commissioner Gordon for his take on the city.
Plenty of things have changed since his time here as a cop.
But not his favorite "information man."
The paper I gave Johnny Spade had a secure number to reach me at.
I figured it'd be at least a couple days before I heard anything, if at all.
Not that I'm complaining. I'm working blind in a city I don't know. And with the way last night went...
...the sooner I can wrap things up, the better.

ACROSS TOWN...
IS THE FIRST RULE OF MASK CLUB PICKING TERRIBLY INACCESSIBLE PLACES TO MEET?
BECAUSE IF IT IS, THEN CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'LL SURELY KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S RULE NUMBER THREE. COMES RIGHT AFTER PERSONAL TRAGEDY AND BOXER BRIEFS.
HM.
SO HOW DOES THIS WORK, SPADE?
WE PLAY ONE HAND. IF YOU WIN, I TELL YOU WHAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT TONY ZUCCO.
AND IF YOU WIN?
YOU TELL ME WHY YOU WANT HIM.
I grew up surrounded by gamblers and card sharks.
I can tell right away Johnny's good. Really good.
But he's not me.
THAT HAS VALUE TO YOU?
EVERYTHING HAS VALUE TO ME.
SO WE HAVE A DEAL? OR SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR AN ELEVATOR?

SLIGHT PERSPIRATION
CONTROLLED BLINK RATE
SMOKING INCREASE
CLENCHED JAW
TIGHT GRIP
A SHORT TIME LATER...
I SPENT TWELVE HOURS IN CARD GAMES LAST NIGHT. HAD A NICE LITTLE STREAK GOING. ONLY LOST ONE HAND, TO A GUY WANTING TO KNOW WHY DOWNTOWN'S CALLED "THE LOOP."
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? IDIOT WASTED A PLAY ON SOMETHING HE COULD HAVE TYPED INTO A SEARCH ENGINE. INCREDIBLE.
ANYWAY, A FEW HOURS IN AND I STILL HAD *NOTHING*.
SO, I CHANGED WHAT I WAS *LOOKING* FOR.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, YOU SAID YOU HAD A THROWAWAY E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR ZUCCO. IT POINTED YOU TO CHICAGO, BUT BEYOND THAT IT WAS A DEAD END.
THAT GOT ME THINKING ABOUT WHO IT *WOULDN'T* BE A DEAD END FOR.
NINE HANDS LATER, I FOUND A SECURITY GUARD WHO GOT WARNED TO CALL IN SICK TONIGHT.
THREE HANDS AFTER, I GOT HIM TO SAY *WHY*.
TELL ME... WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT *THE PRANKSTER?*

THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.
PL-PLEASE...
...LET ME GO... MR. PR-PRANKSTER... I'VE DONE NOTHING...
SHH... SHHH.
JOHN CONAWAY, WHOSE COMPANY INSTALLS "LIGHTNING INSULATION" IN THE CHIMNEYS OF HOMES AROUND ILLINOIS.
MATERIAL THAT, WHILE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE HOUSE... IN ACTUALITY IS A SCAM. IT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF NEARLY A DOZEN PEOPLE.
THOSE... THOSE...THE MATERIAL WORKS... I-I SWEAR...
FOR YOUR SAKE, JOHN, I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU SEE, YOU'RE CURRENTLY WRAPPED IN THE SAME MATERIAL.
AND IN ABOUT FIVE SECONDS, I'M GOING TO TURN ON THE MODIFIED TESLA COIL YOU'RE ATTACHED TO.
IF YOUR PRODUCT DOES WORK, THEN YOU'LL STILL BE ALIVE WHEN THE COIL COMPLETES ITS CYCLE.
I'D SAY GOOD LUCK, JOHN, BUT...
WAIT--!
YAAAHHH!

KSSSHHH
AHHHHH!
NIGHTWING!
I WONDERED WHEN WE'D MEET.
THOUGH AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING IMPOLITE, YOUR TIMING SUCKS.
WHAT CAN I SAY? IT'S A GIFT.

NOW THEN, THIS CAN END ONE OF TWO WAYS FOR YOU, PRANKSTER. EITHER YOU *GIVE UP* AND WE WALK OUT OF HERE TOGETHER...
...OR I *DRAG* YOU OUT BY WHATEVER THOSE TAIL FLAPS ARE YOU'RE WEARING.
NO, NO, NO... NOT *YOU*, TOO.
AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE SO MUCH IN *COMMON!*
TWO MEN OF THE *MASK.*
BDEEP
OH WELL. I SUPPOSE NOT *ALL* ARE CREATED EQUAL.
AH, *THERE* YOU ARE.

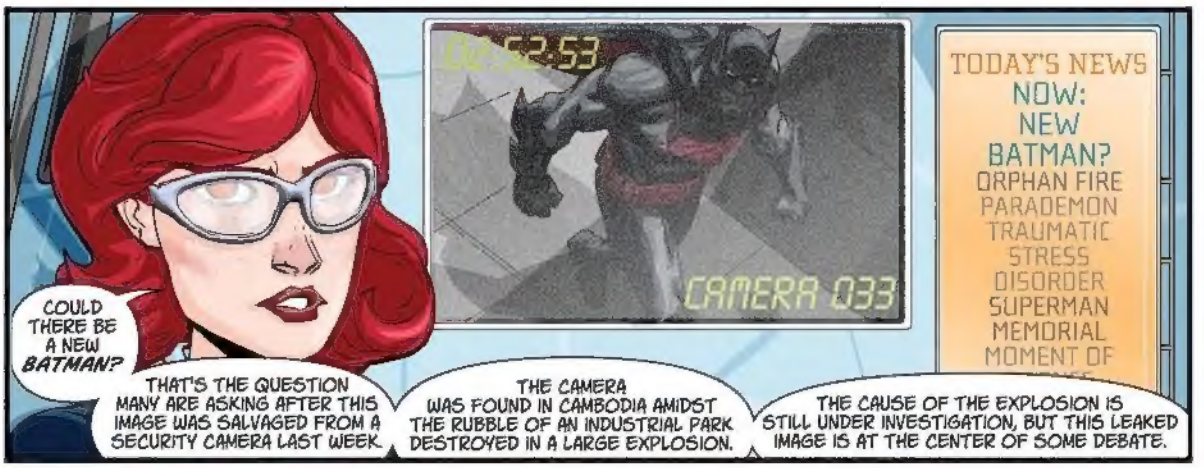
WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU--?
THAT'S THE *PROBLEM* WITH HEADS-UP DISPLAYS.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HACK IN AND *BLACK 'EM OUT.*
KZZT
HEY THERE!
DON'T BLAME *ME.*
BLAME THE--
ARHH!
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN *THAT.*
UGH!

CLEARLY.
BEEP
SSZZZT
What the--?
So loud I can't get a bead on him.
I can't tell where--
ZZZZT
UGH!

SLAM
YOU SURPRISED ME TONIGHT, NIGHTWING.
YOU'RE THE FIRST TO DO THAT.
ASSUMING YOU ARE NIGHTWING.
YOU MATCH THE PICTURES I'VE SEEN OF HIM, ANYWAY.
FOR THE SAKE OF WHAT COMES NEXT, I'M GOING TO ASSUME THAT YOU ARE.
IT APPEARS THERE ARE TWO WAYS OUT FOR YOU, BOTH IN THE FORM OF ACCESS HATCHES.
HOWEVER, ONE OF THE HATCHES WILL RELEASE ENOUGH OXYGEN TO EXPLODE THE FIRE AT YOUR FEET, KILLING YOU INSTANTLY.
THE GAME IS SIMPLE, NIGHTWING. IN ORDER TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT HATCH, YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO SEE.
WHICH IS FITTING. AFTER ALL, THIS IS A CITY THAT HATES MASKS. SO, IN ORDER TO GET OUT ALIVE...

...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE OFF YOURS FOR THE CAMERA!
BACKDRAFT 101
DRAFT
NEXT ISSUE: NIGHTWING AND PRANKSTER...ALLIES?!

CHANNEL
MOLLY MAYNE...C2 ANCHOR
WELCOME BACK TO CHANNEL 2 NEWS.
I'M YOUR HOST MOLLY MAYNE AND HERE ARE TODAY'S TOP STORIES.
TODAY'S NEWS
NOW:
NEW BATMAN?
ORPHAN FIRE
PARADEMON
TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER
SUPERMAN MEMORIAL MOMENT OF SILENCE
CS2?


COULD THERE BE A NEW BATMAN?
THAT'S THE QUESTION MANY ARE ASKING AFTER THIS IMAGE WAS SALVAGED FROM A SECURITY CAMERA LAST WEEK.
THE CAMERA WAS FOUND IN CAMBODIA AMIDST THE RUBBLE OF AN INDUSTRIAL PARK DESTROYED IN A LARGE EXPLOSION.
THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION, BUT THIS LEAKED IMAGE IS AT THE CENTER OF SOME DEBATE.
CAMERA 033
TODAY'S NEWS
NOW:
NEW BATMAN?
ORPHAN FIRE
PARADEMON
TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER
SUPERMAN MEMORIAL

WE ALL KNOW TOO WELL THAT THE ORIGINAL BATMAN PERISHED DEFENDING OUR PLANET FROM ATTACK.
COULD THIS PERSON IN A SIMILAR COSTUME BE PAYING HOMAGE TO THE FALLEN HERO?
WE MAY NEVER FIND OUT, AS WHOEVER IT WAS LEFT NO TRACE--ALIVE OR DEAD--AT THE SCENE.
WE NOW GO TO OUR NEWS MATRIX MC2 FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.
TODAY'S NEWS
NOW:
NEW BATMAN?
ORPHAN FIRE
PARADEMON
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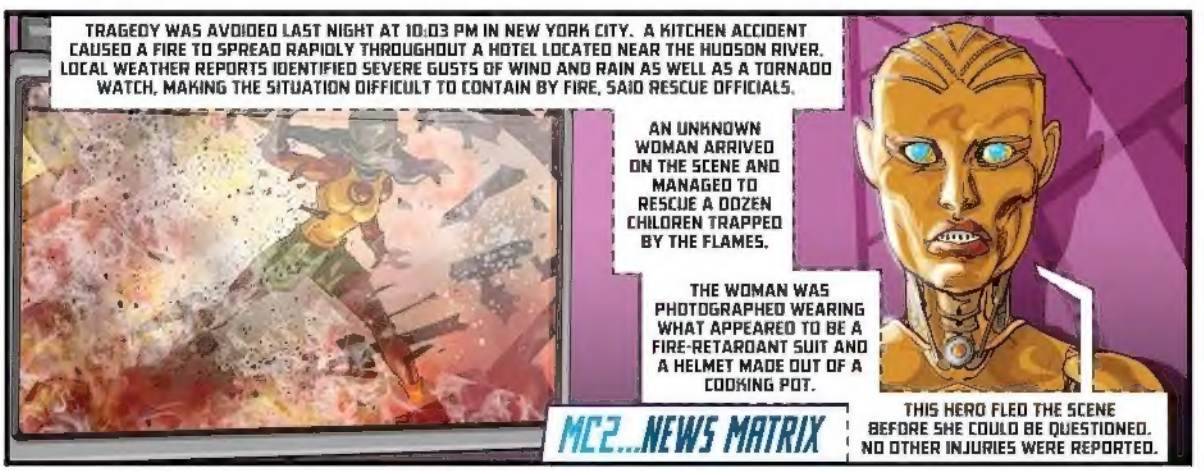
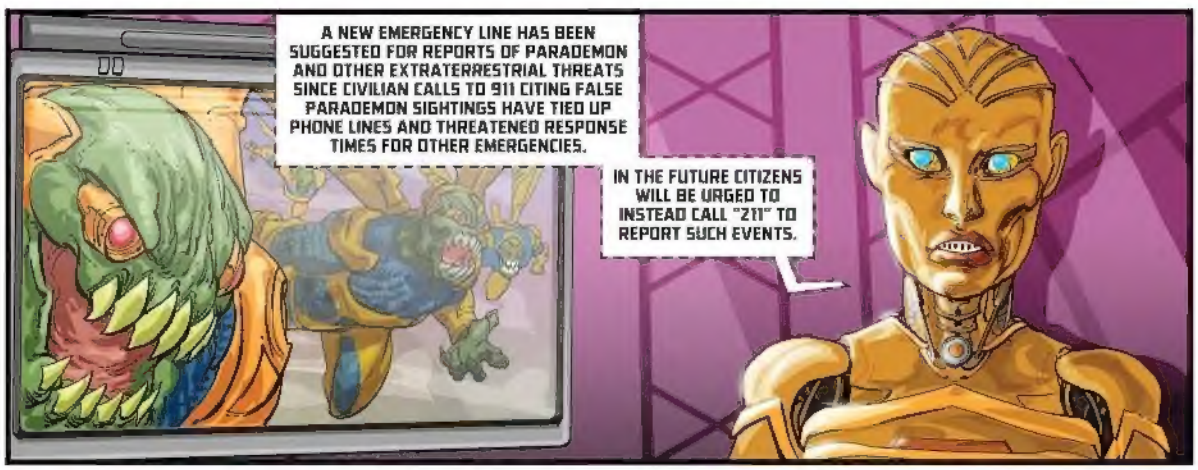
SUPERMAN MEMORIAL


TRAGEDY WAS AVOIDED LAST NIGHT AT 10:03 PM IN NEW YORK CITY. A KITCHEN ACCIDENT CAUSED A FIRE TO SPREAD RAPIDLY THROUGHOUT A HOTEL LOCATED NEAR THE HUDSON RIVER. LOCAL WEATHER REPORTS IDENTIFIED SEVERE GUSTS OF WIND AND RAIN AS WELL AS A TORNADO WATCH, MAKING THE SITUATION DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN BY FIRE, SAID RESCUE OFFICIALS.
AN UNKNOWN WOMAN ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND MANAGED TO RESCUE A DOZEN CHILDREN TRAPPED BY THE FLAMES.
THE WOMAN WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WEARING WHAT APPEARED TO BE A FIRE-RETARDANT SUIT AND A HELMET MADE OUT OF A COOKING POT.
THIS HERO FLED THE SCENE BEFORE SHE COULD BE QUESTIONED. NO OTHER INJURIES WERE REPORTED.
MC2...NEWS MATRIX

NO OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE CONCERNING HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING WITH A POT ON HER HEAD.


A NEW EMERGENCY LINE HAS BEEN SUGGESTED FOR REPORTS OF PARADEMON AND OTHER EXTRATERRESTRIAL THREATS SINCE CIVILIAN CALLS TO 911 CITING FALSE PARADEMON SIGHTINGS HAVE TIED UP PHONE LINES AND THREATENED RESPONSE TIMES FOR OTHER EMERGENCIES.
IN THE FUTURE CITIZENS WILL BE URGED TO INSTEAD CALL "211" TO REPORT SUCH EVENTS.

THANK YOU, MC2.
CHECK BACK WITH US LATER FOR AN UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA'S NEW *SUPERMAN* MEMORIAL AND MUCH MORE.
THIS IS C2. AND NOW WE'LL TAKE OUR STANDARD MIDDAY MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.
TODAY'S NEWS NOW:
SUPERMAN MEMORIAL
ORPHAN FIRE
PARADEMON TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE
C52?
NEW BATMAN?

2 CHANNEL
TODAY'S NEWS NOW:
MOMENT OF SILENCE
ORPHAN FIRE
PARADEMON TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER
C52?
NEW BATMAN?
SUPERMAN MEMORIAL

NAHGA